

**CRYNDAE MAWR, BLAENANNERCH,
CEREDIGION
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
(SN 24878 47732)**



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: Barratt Associates



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**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2016/34
RHIF Y DIGWYLLIAD / EVENT RECORD NO.109365**

Mai 2016
May 2016

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Gan / By

Menna Bell

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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CRYNGAE MAWR, BLAENANNERCH, CEREDIGION
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Barratt Associates to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a proposed luxury camping site at Cryngae Mawr, near Blaenannerch, Ceredigion. The site is centred on NGR SN24878 47732.

The proposed development included the construction of six pre-erected "safari" style tents on timber bases, associated drainage connections and improvement of an existing access track. The campsite is located close to the cropmark enclosure known as Ffynnon Llygoden which is summarised as "A complex enclosure (PRN 35726). It is sub-rectangular, with an outer defensive ditch (PRN 50166). Further defensive ditches lie to the east of the main enclosure". It is assumed that the site is of Iron Age date, but could also potentially extend into the Romano-British period. A number of small square ditches (PRN 35727) have also been identified from cropmarks which are similar in character to early medieval graves enclosed by square ditches that have been recorded across many parts of west Wales. The main enclosure (PRN 35726) lies approximately 200m to the west-northwest of the campsite while two small square cropmarks (PRN 50166) are located approximately 180m to the west.

A reconnaissance visit was made by Head of Field Services James Meek prior to the commencement of ground works in early April. During this visit it was determined unnecessary to monitor the installation of the tent bases as it was considered that the route of the drainage trenches would provide sufficient transects across the site. The subsequent watching brief took place on the 14th of April 2016.

This watching brief monitored the mechanical excavation of three narrow drainage trenches below the dripline of two erected safari tents. The topsoil stripping of a length of pedestrian access was also watched.

The three drainage trenches allowed for the monitoring across small sample area of the site, albeit confined to the northern half of the field. The diversion and stripping of the pedestrian access route in the field to the east of the campsite revealed a former modern path. No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the watching brief although the loamy nature of the topsoil and the few finds may well attest to improvement and cultivation of the land during the nineteenth-century and later.

Despite the campsite's proximity to the significant cropmarks identified to the north-east of Cryngae Mawr farmstead, no archaeological features or deposits were revealed or suggested during the watching brief. Whilst the result of this watching brief is negative, it does not negate the possibility of significant archaeology surviving elsewhere within the vicinity.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Proposals and Commission

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Barratt Associates to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a proposed luxury camping site at Cryngae Mawr, near Blaenannerch, Ceredigion (Figure 1). The site is centred on NGR SN24878 47732.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development included the construction of six pre-erected "safari" style tents on timber bases, associated drainage connections and improvement of an existing access track. The campsite is located close to the cropmark enclosure known as Ffynnon Llygoden which is summarised as *"A complex enclosure (PRN 35726). It is sub-rectangular, with an outer defensive ditch (PRN 50166). Further defensive ditches lie to the east of the main enclosure"*. It is assumed that the site is of Iron Age date, but could also potentially extend into the Romano-British period. A number of small square ditches (PRN 35727) have also been identified from cropmarks which are similar in character to early medieval graves enclosed by square ditches that have been recorded across many parts of west Wales. The main enclosure (PRN 35726) lies approximately 200m to the west-northwest of the campsite while two small square cropmarks (PRN 50166) are located approximately 180m to the west.
- 1.1.3 Owing to the proximity of the proposed development to these known sites there was considered to be a high potential for archaeological remains to survive within the development area. Therefore, following advice from the archaeological advisors to Ceredigion Planning Authority (Development Management at Dyfed Archaeological Trust), it was recommended that an archaeological condition be placed upon the planning approval (application ref: A/160111) for the works. The condition stated that
- "No development shall commence until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by local planning authority."*
- 1.1.4 It was advised that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during any ground works for the installation of the wooden bases and drainage for the tents. The improvement works to the existing access track were considered unlikely to impact upon archaeological remains, as it is probable that the construction of the existing track in the past would have already compromised any underlying archaeology.

1.2 Scope of the Project

- 1.2.1 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) for a watching brief was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services prior to the commencement of the works, which was approved by Development Management at Dyfed Archaeological Trust in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Ceredigion Planning Authority, prior to the commencement of the works (Appendix I). The project objectives were:
- Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which DAT Archaeological Services will undertake the watching brief.
 - To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
 - To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed groundworks.

- To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the groundworks.
 - To produce an archive and report of any results.
- 1.2.2 The overall work was summarised as: *"Archaeological attendance during ground works associated with the construction of a proposed luxury campsite at Cryngae Mawr, Blaenannerch, Ceredigion which are likely to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains. This would include the excavation of any material for the proposed tent bases, associated drainage works and any landscaping. Appropriate investigation and recording of any such remains will be undertaken if revealed. A report and archive of the results of the works will be prepared."*

1.3 Report Outline

- 1.3.1 This report describes the location of the development works along with its archaeological background, and provides a summary and discussion of the archaeological watching brief and its results.

1.4 Abbreviations

- 1.4.1 Sites recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Sites recorded on the National Monument Record (NMR) held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) are identified by their National Primary Record Number (NPRN). Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). Altitude is expressed to Ordnance Datum (OD). References to cartographic and documentary evidence and published sources will be given in brackets throughout the text, with full details listed in the sources section at the rear of the report.

1.5 Illustrations

- 1.5.1 Photographic images are to be found within the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale.

1.6 Timeline

1.6.1 The following timeline is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text.

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1086	
medieval Period –	1086 – 1536	
post-medieval Period ¹ –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
modern –	20 th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and historical timeline for Wales

¹ The post-medieval and industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust



Figure 1: Location map showing the location of proposed campsite at Cryngae Mawr (encircled in red)

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2. SITE LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1.1 Cryngae Mawr farmstead is located approximately 1.25km south of the village of Blaenannerch and approximately 3.68km south-east of the town of Aberporth in south Ceredigion. The farmstead is located within the fold of a slight cwm along which a small stream flows northwards from an elevation of around 150m above sea level. A large modern pond situated to the south-east of the farmhouse captures the water before it continues downstream north of the house. The proposed campsite development is located in a narrow linear field south of the farm house and is centred on NGR SN2487847732 (Figure 2). The small stream marks the boundary between the parishes of Llangoedmor and Llandygwdd parishes.
- 2.1.2 The underlying solid geology is Mudstone from the Nantmel Mudstones Formation which formed during the Ordovician period approximately 444 to 451 million years ago (based on information from the British Geological Survey <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).
- 2.1.3 The linear field within which it is proposed to site the campsite development rises gently to the south and is enclosed to the east by a mature hedge bank and dense blackthorn scrub, and brambles and rushes to the south and west. The surface of the field is fairly undulating and it is probable that the ground has been disturbed and dumps of material deposited across it in recent times.

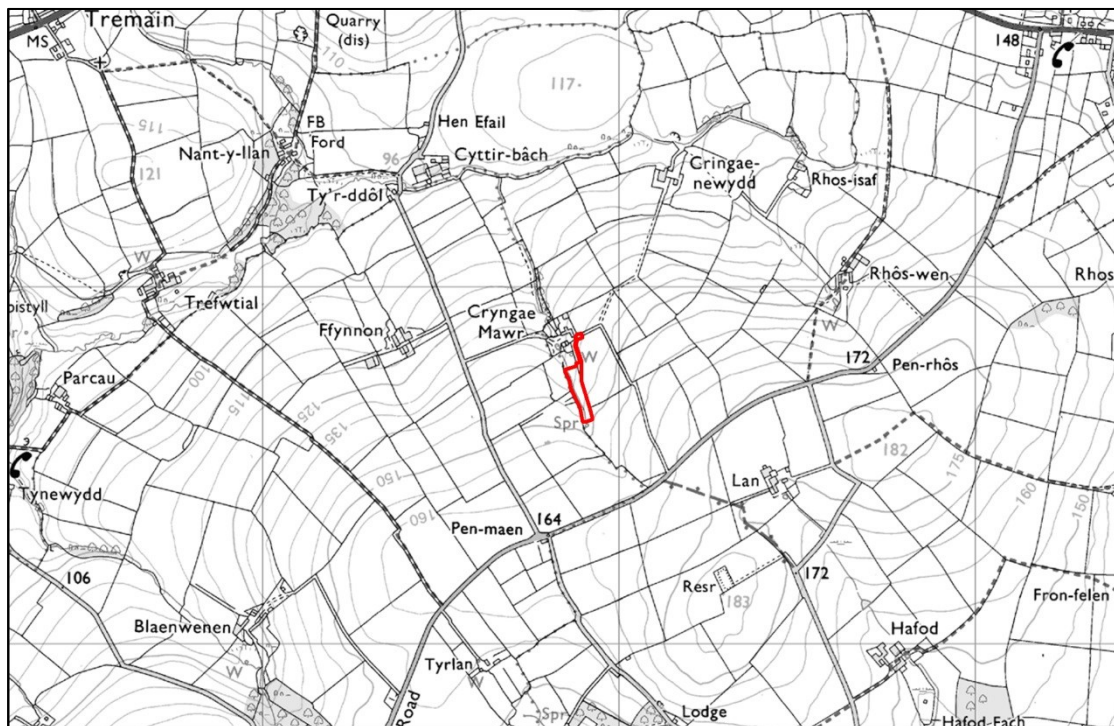


Figure 2: The 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map showing the location of the Cryngae Mawr farmstead and the proposed campsite area (outlined in red).

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3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1.1 The Dyfed Historic Environment Record (HER) was searched for known archaeological sites within 500m of the proposed campsite at Cryngae Mawr (Table 2; Figure 3). The search returned five sites which include the cropmarks discussed earlier in this report (PRNs 35726, 35727 and 50166) and two additional sites. A post-medieval well (PRN 15601) is recorded around 370m north-west of the campsite at the aptly named Fynnon farm. Cryngae Mawr farmhouse is a Grade II listed building (PRN 567680) (Listed Building ref: 16821) for it is considered to be a "substantial" farmhouse of the small, late eighteenth or early nineteenth-century gentry-house type (Cadw Listed Buildings).

3.1.2 In spite of the proximity and significance of the archaeology listed above there are no other known archaeological sites recorded within 500m of the development area.

3.2 Historic Mapping

Llandygwydd tithe map c.1843

3.2.1 Cryngae Mawr farmstead is located at the division of two parishes; the stream with runs roughly north/south along the western extent of the proposed campsite field is the parish boundary. The proposed campsite field and the farmstead buildings are located within the parish of Llandygwydd whilst the land to the west is in the Llangoedmor parish.

3.2.2 The Llandygwydd tithe map shows that the layout of the farmstead has changed very little since the mid-nineteenth-century. The farmhouse and associated buildings of "Cringa Mawr" are shown along with the narrow, linear field of the proposed campsite which is vacant and undeveloped (Figure 4.).

1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889

3.2.3 The 1st edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1889 provides a little more detail about the farmstead of "Crincae-mawr" towards the end of the nineteenth-century (Figure 5.). The farmhouse and associated buildings largely conform to the plan of the present layout as do the field boundaries. The proposed campsite field remains vacant although there is a small pocket at its north-western corner which is now marked as the location of a well. In the fields opposite the proposed campsite is a small farm annotated as "Crincae-bâch" and the location of a spring and a footpath which leads into the south-western corner of "Crincae-mawr" farmyard. The parish boundary along the western field of the proposed campsite field is annotated with "3ft FF" indicating that the boundary was marked by a 3ft fence.

2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1905

3.2.3 The 2nd edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1905 shows little variation from the 1st edition save for the mutation of the place names to "Crynga-mawr" and "Crynga- bâch" farmsteads (Figure 6). The proposed campsite field remains undeveloped although a sluice is also represented in addition to the well at the north-western corner of the field.

PRN	Site Name	Period	Description	NGR	Distance (m) and direction from development area
15601	FFYNNON-LLYGODEN	Post-Medieval	A well located to west of Ffynnon-Llygoden farmstead	SN245479	370 (NW)
35726	FFYNNON-LLYGODEN	Iron Age; Roman; Early Medieval	Aerial photographs show a complex cropmark enclosure bisected by a public road in a deep hollow-way and by a farm track, also in a hollow-way. The enclosure lies on a north-facing slope at approximately 130m above sea level. It consists of a distinct cropmark ditch enclosing a sub-rectangular area 60m by 60m. There is no obvious entrance through the ditch into the enclosure, but the road/track may be masking this. Concentric to and about 12m distant from this distinct ditch is a very much slighter ditch. There is an entrance through this ditch on the eastern side. Two and possibly three more ditches lie on the east side of the enclosure, with hints that they too run concentrically around enclosure, at least on the north side. There are entrances through these ditches on the east side. The relationship between this enclosure and a smaller rectangular cropmark (PRN 35727) 75m to the west is unknown. In 2005, the enclosure was under improved pasture. K Murphy 22 April 2005	SN24554781	300 (NW)
35727	FFYNNON-LLYGODEN	Early Medieval	A small rectangular cropmark maybe an early medieval square barrow, 'special burial' or chapel. It alternatively be an iron age temple. K Murphy 1996. Since 1996 further rectangular cropmarks have been discovered in the field to the west reinforcing the notion that this is an early medieval cemetery. In addition to the information above, see also PRN 50166 (FFYNNON, Early Medieval B site) and PRN 35726 (FFYNNON-LLYGODEN, Iron Age Enclosure).	SN24444775	407 (W)
50166	FFYNNON	EARLY MEDIEVAL?, Early Medieval	Early medieval B site, ie. medium-probability early medieval origins. Cropmarks observed in a field 150m east of Ffynnon farmstead, Llangoedmor, during aerial reconnaissance by RCAHMW on 14 and 18 July 2003. They comprise one well-defined, small square enclosure, and two or three fainter ones. They are - at NGR SN 2444 4775, a rectangular cropmark c.13m across; at SN 2465 4778, a square cropmark 10m across, with a central ?grave-pit; at NGR 2466 4772, a square cropmark 17m across, with another partial ditch to the east. In form, the cropmarks are very similar to the early medieval 'square barrows' at Tandderwen in Clwyd and may represent a similar cemetery. They occur in close association with a large defended enclosure also noted by RCAHMW (no PRN). NDL 2004 In addition to the information above, see also PRN 35727 (FFYNNON-LLYGODEN, Early Medieval B site) and PRN 35726 (FFYNNON-LLYGODEN, Iron Age Enclosure).	SN24564776	287 (W)
57680	CRINGAE MAWR	Post-Medieval	Grade II listed farmhouse (LB Ref: 16821)	SN2485347847	25 (N)

Table 2. Known archaeological and historic sites recorded within 500m of the proposed campsite at Cryngae Mawr recorded on the Dyfed HER.

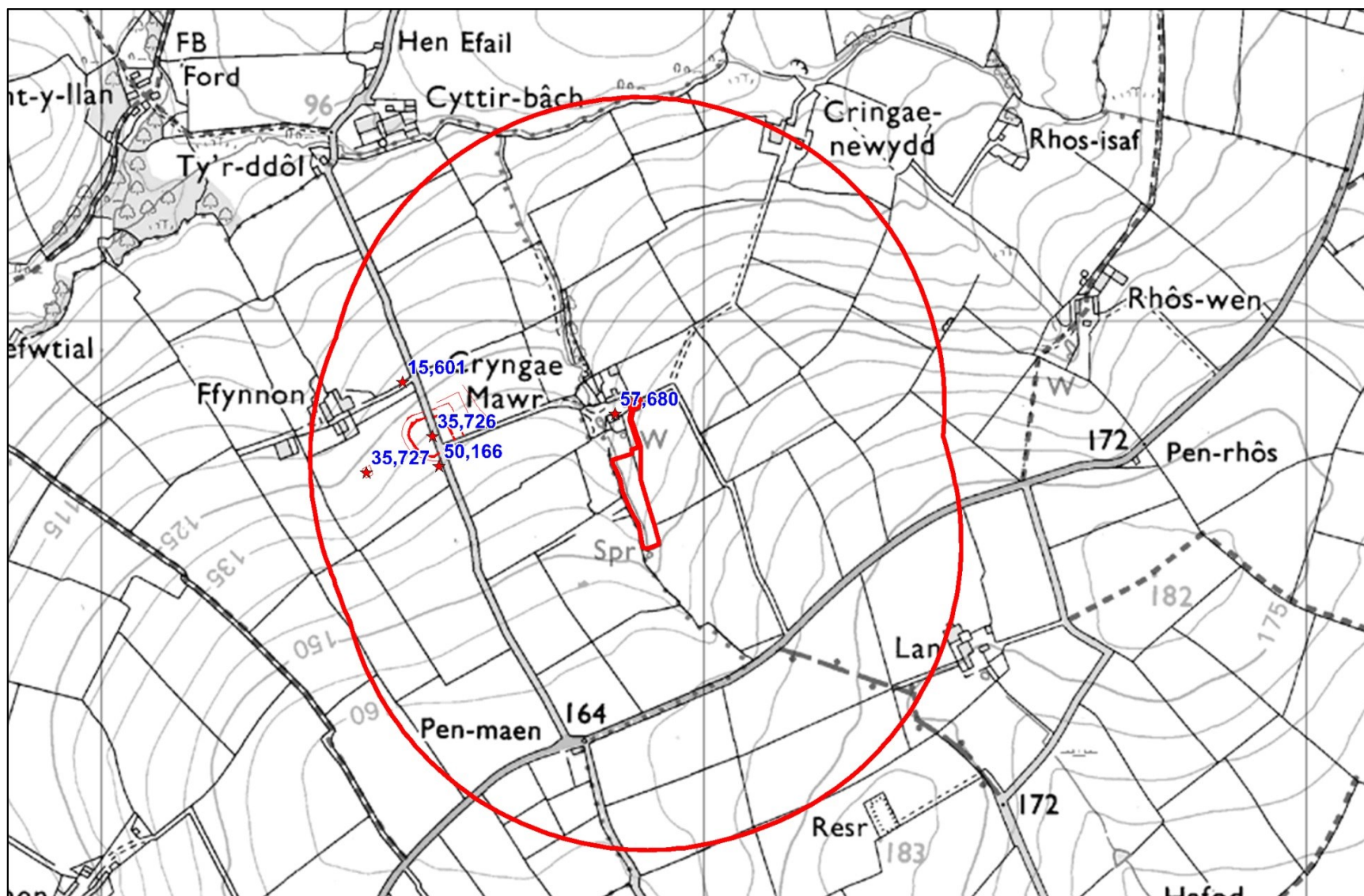


Figure 3: Known archaeological and historic sites recorded on the Dyfed HER, within 500m (red buffer) of the proposed campsite at Cryngae Mawr. (outlined in red).

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Figure 4. An extract from the Llandygydd tithe map c.1843 showing a variation of the place name Cryngae Mawr; "Cringa Mawr" and the undeveloped linear field of the proposed campsite (outlined in red).

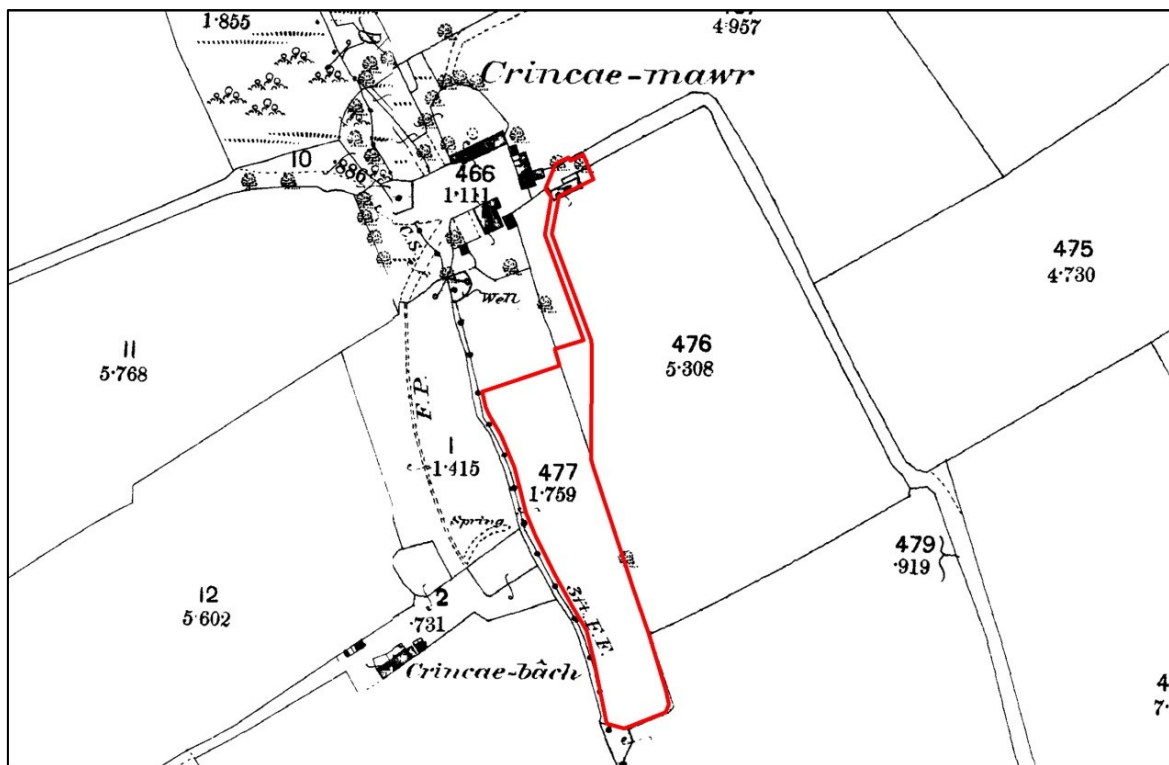


Figure 5. An extract from the 1889 1:2500 1st edition Ordnance Survey map showing the linear field of the proposed campsite (outlined in red).

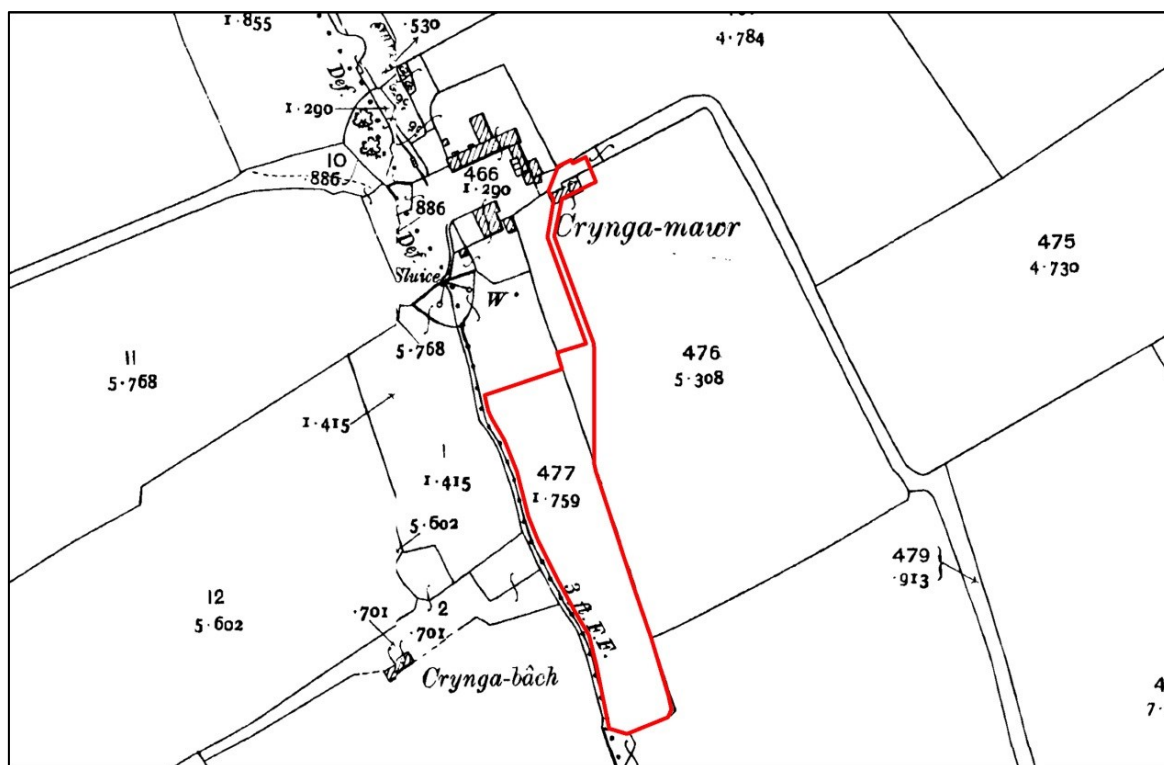


Figure 6. An extract from the 1905 1:2500 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map showing the linear field of the proposed campsite (outlined in red).

3.2.4 The cartographic evidence demonstrates very little change or development on the farmstead during the mid-nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. However, it is interesting to note the variation in the place name from "Cringa Mawr" on the tithe map, "Crincae Mawr" on the 1st edition, "Cruna -Mawr" on the 2nd edition before finally mutating to "Cryngae Mawr" on modern mapping. The large pond at the northern end of the proposed campsite field is a modern feature.

3.2.5 Owing to the proximity of the development site to significant cropmarks identified to the north-west of Cryngae Mawr, there was considered to be the potential for archaeological remains associated with these sites to survive within the development area of the proposed development site.

4. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork

4.1.1 This watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014).

4.1.2 A written scheme of investigation was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services detailing the proposed archaeological works, which was approved by Planning Services of Dyfed Archaeological Trust in their capacity as advisors to the local authority.

4.1.3 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual² used by DAT Archaeological Services. A written, drawn and photographic

² DAT Archaeological Services have adopted the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available on-site for inspection if required.

record was maintained throughout this watching brief, a summary of which is presented in Appendix 2. All contexts encountered during this watching brief were recorded and assigned a unique context number. These numbers are enclosed in brackets in the following text.

- 4.1.4 Excavation work was undertaken by tracked, mini excavator fitted with a toothed ditching bucket for the drainage trenches and a 1m toothless grading bucket for the stripping of the pedestrian access. All archaeological deposits revealed during the groundworks were examined and recorded to an appropriate level.

4.2 Timetabling of Fieldwork

- 4.2.1 A reconnaissance visit was made by Head of Field Services James Meek prior to the commencement of ground works in early April. During this visit it was determined unnecessary to monitor the installation of the tent bases as it was considered that the route of the drainage trenches would provide sufficient transects across the site. The subsequent watching brief took place on the 14th of April 2016.

4.3 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

- 4.3.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2011), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 4.3.2 The results of the fieldwork have been assessed in local, regional and wider contexts. The report includes a desk-based research element to ensure that the site is placed within its wider archaeological context.

5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- 5.1 This watching brief monitored the mechanical excavation of three narrow drainage trenches below the dripline of two erected safari tents. The topsoil stripping of a length of pedestrian access was also watched (Figure 7).
- 5.2 Following the site visit by James Meek, Tents 1 and 3 had been erected in the proposed campsite field. Each tent measured approximately 9.0m long and 5.0m wide and was set on timber decking which provided an elevated viewing platform overlooking the pond and views beyond. In a slight disparity with the architectural plans, Tent 1 was situated at the eastern side of the campsite field, aligned almost parallel to the hedgebank and was orientated NNW/SSE. One drainage trench (hereafter known as "T1") was excavated parallel to the western side of the tent, in line with the dripline of the overhanging tent canopy and then diverted to the stream at the western edge of the field (Photo 1).

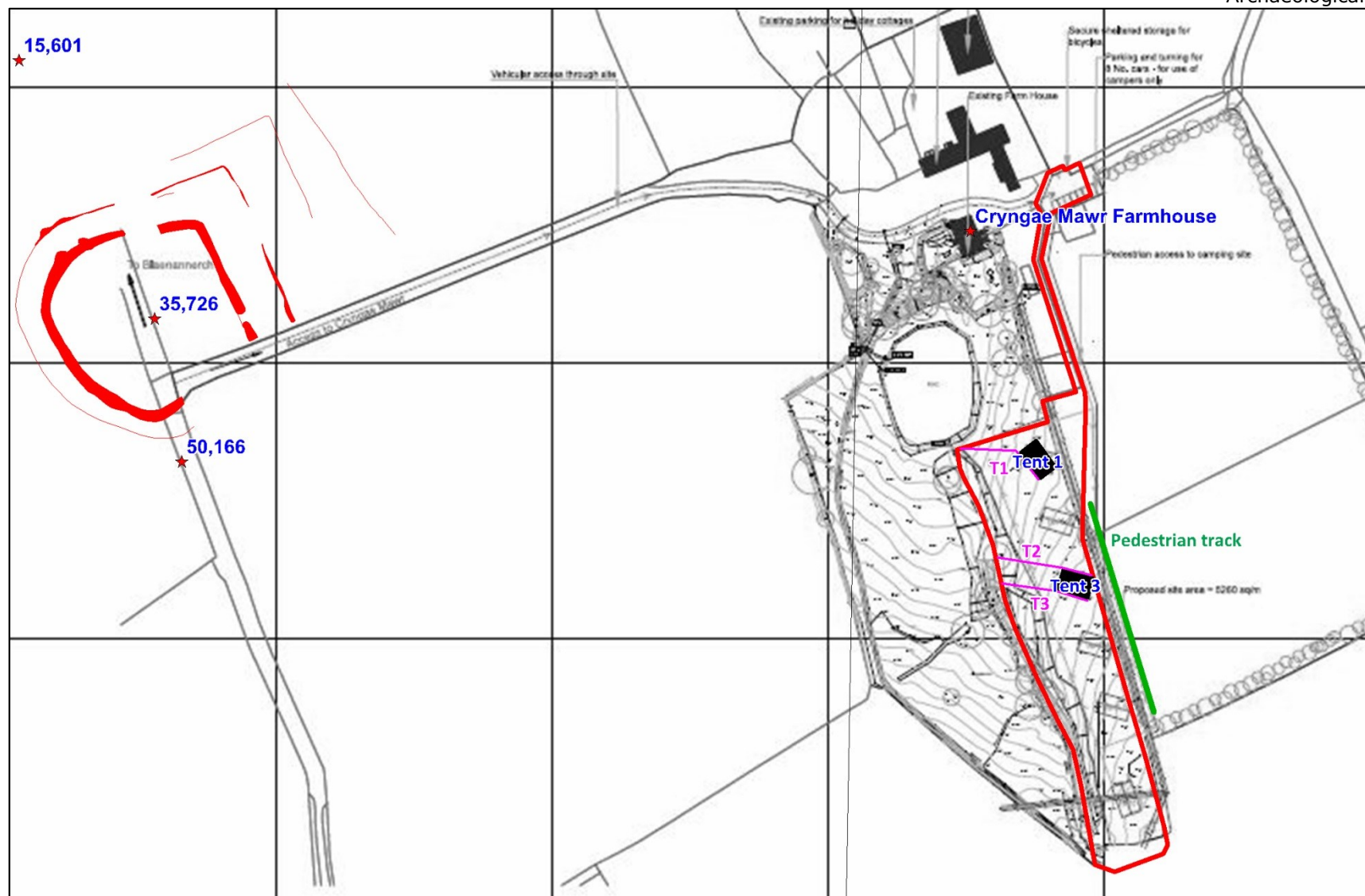


Figure 7. Plan of the proposed campsite area showing the locations of the erected tents, drainage trenches and pedestrian access track monitored during this watching brief. Also shown are the cropmarks recorded at Ffynnon-Llygoden farm. (Plan provided by client via Catalina Architecture & Design)



Photo 1: Drainage trench "T1" at the western side of Tent 1, heading down to the stream at the western boundary of the campsite field.
1m scale (DAT Photo 3817-109365)

- 5.3 T1 measured 0.40m wide, up to 0.3m deep and approximately 42.0m long. Between 0.05m and 0.1m of loamy topsoil (101) was removed to reveal gleyed and waterlogged silty-clay deposits (103) at the western end of the trench (indicative of stream deposits) which progressed to an orangey brown to dark brown, friable clay-silt with frequent mudstone and quartz fragments at the eastern end of the trench (102) (Photo 2). This narrow trench yielded one piece of anthracite and a single sherd of glazed, nineteenth century pottery.



Photo 2: The water logged deposits at the western end of "T1" with safari Tent 1 in the background. (DAT Photo 3825-109365).

- 5.4 Tent 3 was located approximately 32.0m south of Tent 1 and was situated at roughly 45° from the hedgebank and was orientated north-west/south-east. Two drainage trenches were dug either side of the tent, below the dripline of the canopy. Drainage trench "T2" was dug along the northern side of the tent and diverted down to the stream at the western edge of the field (Photo 3).
- 5.5 T2 measured approximately 24.0m in length, 0.4m wide and up to 0.38m deep. Between 0.16m and 0.18m of friable, loamy light brown topsoil was removed (201) to reveal an orangey brown clayey silt with frequent shattered mudstone and quartz fragments (202). Similar to T1, dark brown, grey gleyed deposits were seen at the western end of the trench (203). No finds were retrieved from this trench.



Photo 3: The eastern end of drainage trench T2 along the northern side of Tent 2.
1m scale (DAT Photo 3830-109365)



Photo 4: The western end of drainage trench T2. 1m scale (DAT Photo 3836-109365)

- 5.6 Drainage trench T3 was located on the southern side of Tent 3, ran parallel to the tent and in line with the dripline of the tent canopy and then travelled west to the stream below (Photo 5). It too measured 400mm wide, approximately 22.0m long and was up to 0.30m deep. Between 0.16m and 0.20m of a light brown, friable loamy topsoil (301) was removed to reveal the subsoil seen in T2; an orangey clayey silt with frequent shattered mudstone and quartz fragments (302) (Photo 6). One sherd of blue and white willow pattern ware was recovered from the topsoil. Remaining consistent to what was seen in T2, dark brown/grey waterlogged deposits were present at the western end of the trench, indicative of stream deposits (303).



Photo 5: The eastern end of drainage trench T3 on the southern side of Tent 3
1m scale (DAT Photo 3842-109365)



Photo 6: View looking up to eastern hedgebank from near the western end of drainage trench T3. 1m scale (DAT Photo 3842-109365).

- 5.7 The initial proposed plan for the pedestrian access route through the campsite indicated that the path would run down the centre of the camping field, passing the front of the tents. This was reviewed on site by the clients who considered the original plan to be too intrusive, and consequently the route of this path was changed. The path did not enter the camping field. Approximately 94.0m of a 1.0m track was watched along the eastern side of the hedgebank bounding the campsite field. This was approximately 1.0m wide and ran roughly parallel to the hedge. There was virtually no topsoil to speak of, only a thick layer of mossy turf overlying what was revealed to be a shattered mudstone surface or hardstanding for a previous access track (Photo 7). Consultation of satellite imaging recorded in 2006 shows the presence of a track running parallel to the hedge.



Photo 7. The shattered mudstone/hard standing for the former track to the east on the hedgebank with bounds the campsite field. 1m scale (DAT Photo 3845-109365)

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1. The watching brief monitored the groundworks for the proposed campsite development at Cryngae Mawr; that included 3 drainage trenches and the creation of a new pedestrian access route. No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the excavation of the drainage trenches although the loamy nature of the topsoil and the few finds suggest that this area of land was probably improved and cultivated during the nineteenth-century and later.
- 6.2. Despite the campsite's proximity to the significant cropmarks identified to the north-east of Cryngae Mawr farmstead, no archaeological features or deposits were revealed or suggested during this watching brief. Whilst the result of this watching brief is negative, it does not negate the possibility of significant archaeology surviving elsewhere within the vicinity.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Fieldwork and reporting was undertaken by Menna Bell. The author would like to extend grateful thanks to the clients Shaun and Jo for their assistance and boundless hospitality during this watching brief. The author would also like to thank digger driver John for his co-operation and assistance.

8. SOURCES

Published

British Geological Survey:
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (Accessed May 2016)

Cadw 2014. Listed Buildings: www.historicwales.gov.uk (Accessed May 2016)

Cartographic

Llandygwydd tithe map c.1843

Ordnance Survey; Cardigan 1st edition 1:2500 published in 1889

Ordnance Survey; Cardigan 2nd edition 1:2500 published in 1905

Database

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record, housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust in The Corner House, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AE

RCAHMW Coflein Database <http://www.coflein.gov.uk/>

APPENDIX I:
PROPOSED LUXURY CAMPING SITE, CRYNGAE MAWR, BLAENANNERCH,
CEREDIGION, SA43 2BQ - PLANNING APPLICATION NO: A160111
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF - WRITTEN SCHEME OF
INVESTIGATION

INTRODUCTION

This written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been prepared by DAT Archaeological Services in response to a request from Shaun Davis of Sloeberry Farm to provide an archaeological scheme of works for a watching brief at the proposed site of a luxury campsite at Cryngae Mawr, Blaenannerch, Ceredigion (SN 24886 47701; Figures 1 & 2).

The proposed works include the improvement of an existing access track, installation of wooden bases for the 6 proposed luxury pre-erected tents and associated drainage around the structures.

The site area lies close to the cropmark enclosure of Ffynon-Llygoden, a site summarised as '*A complex enclosure. Subrectanglar, with an outer defensive ditch. Further defensive ditches lie to the east of the main enclosure*' (Historic Environment Record Number 35726). It is assumed that the site is of Iron Age date, but could also potentially run into the Romano-British period. A number of small square ditches have also been identified from cropmarks which could be early medieval graves, square ditches around a central burial have been recorded across many parts of west Wales (HER PRNs 50166 & 35727).

The main enclosure (PRN 35726) lies 200m to the west-northwest of the proposed luxury campsite, with two of the small square cropmarks surrounding it lying around 180m to the west (PRN 50166). The potential has been identified for associated archaeological remains to be present within the development site. For this reason the archaeological advisors to the planning authority (Development Management section of Dyfed Archaeological Trust) recommended that an archaeological condition be placed upon planning approval for the works: '*No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority.*'

The installation of the wooden bases for the tents may require some groundworks, but the extent of such works is not known and potentially they may be laid directly upon the existing ground surface. Drainage works will be undertaken around the tents bases prior to the erection of the pre-erected tents. Where any groundworks are proposed for the tents bases or drainage, an archaeological watching brief should be maintained. The proposed access track improvements are unlikely to impact upon archaeological remains, as the existing track will have already destroyed or damaged any such remains if present. It is not known if any landscaping works are proposed, but if so, these too could cause damage or disturbance to underlying archaeological remains and a watching brief would need to be maintained on those works also.

The full description of the cropmark site (PRN 35726) states: '*Aerial photographs show a complex cropmark enclosure bisected by a public road in a deep hollow-way and by a farm track, also in a hollow-way. The enclosure lies on a north-facing slope at approximately 130m above sea level. It consists of a distinct cropmark ditch enclosing a sub-rectangular area 60m by 60m. There is no obvious entrance through the ditch into the enclosure, but the road/track may be masking this. Concentric to and about 12m distant from this distinct ditch is a very much slighter ditch. There is an entrance through this ditch on the eastern*

side. Two and possibly three more ditches lie on the east side of the enclosure, with hints that they too run concentrically around enclosure, at least on the north side. There are entrances through these ditches on the east side. The relationship between this enclosure and a smaller rectangular cropmark (PRN 35727) 75m to the west is unknown. In 2005, the enclosure was under improved pasture.'

This written scheme of investigation outlines the methodology through which DAT Archaeological Services would undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works at the site, which have the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains. This document has been prepared for the client and is specifically prepared for DAT Archaeological Services to undertake the required archaeological works. The WSI cannot be used by any third party.

The written scheme of investigation is in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2014).

DAT Archaeological Services has considerable experience of this type of project and always operates to best professional practice. DAT Archaeological Services is the contractual arm of Dyfed Archaeological Trust that has its own Health and Safety Policy, and all works are covered by appropriate Employer's Liability and Public Liability Insurances. Copies of all are available on request.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust is a CIfA Registered Organisation and all permanent staff are CSCS registered.

Proposed Luxury Camping site at Cryngae Mawr, Blaenannerch, Ceredigion:
Written Scheme of Investigation - Archaeological Watching Brief



Figure 1: Location plan of the proposed luxury campsite at Cryngae Mawr, Blaenannerch, Ceredigion

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No 100020930

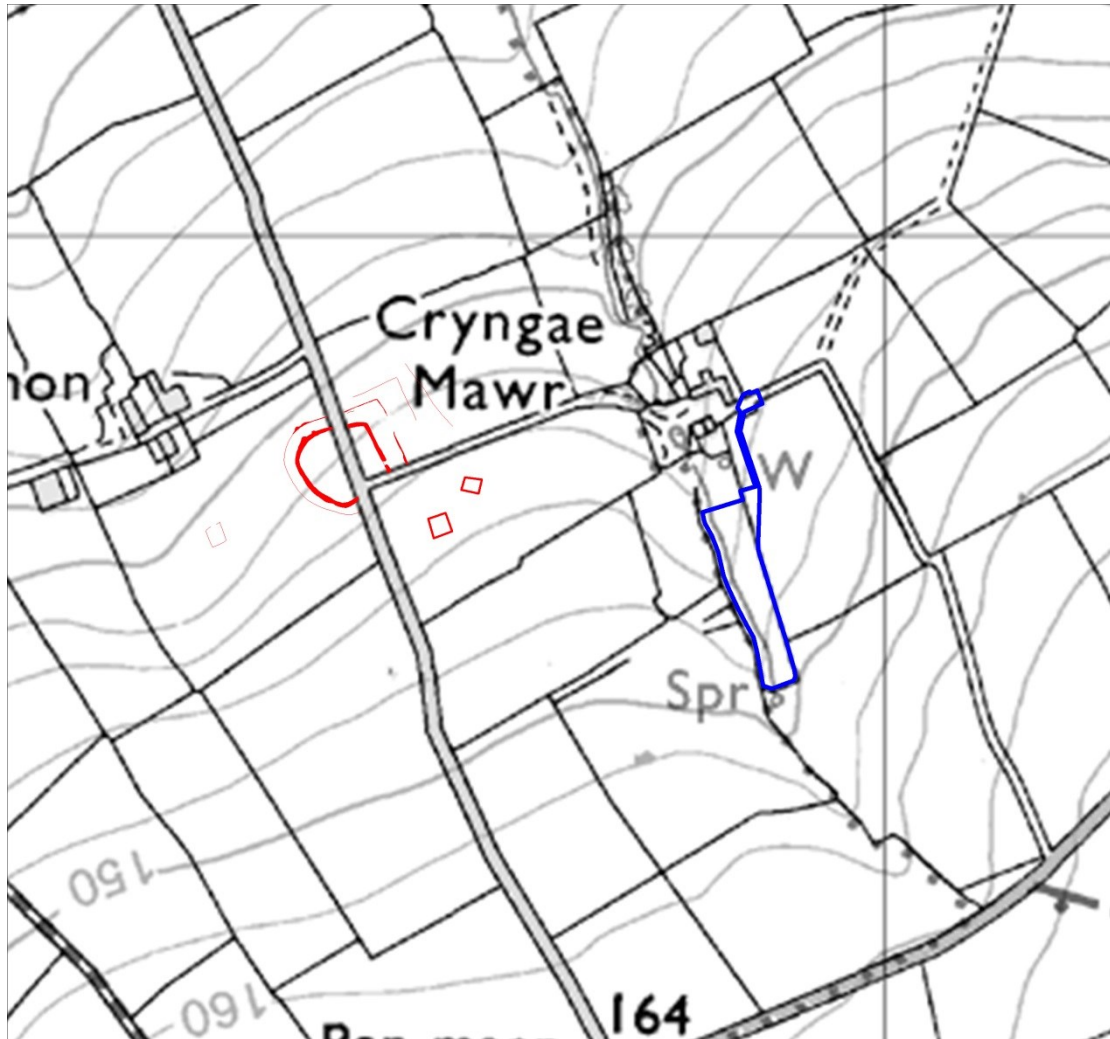


Figure 2: Site area (in blue) with location of cropmark enclosure and square enclosures shown to the west (red lines)

1. WATCHING BRIEF

1.1 The definition of archaeological watching brief, taken from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA S&G: AWB 2014) is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

1.2 The purpose of a watching brief, as laid down in the CIfA S&G AWB is:

to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works;

to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment.

- 1.3 This document provides a scheme of works for: ***Archaeological attendance during ground works associated with the construction of a proposed luxury campsite at Cryngae Mawr, Blaenannerch, Ceredigion which are likely to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains. This would include the excavation of any material for the proposed tent bases, associated drainage works and any landscaping. Appropriate investigation and recording of any such remains will be undertaken if revealed. A report and archive of the results of the works will be prepared.***

2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which DAT Archaeological Services will undertake the archaeological watching brief.
- 2.2 To monitor ground works in order to identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- 2.3 To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- 2.4 To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- 2.5 To produce an archive and report of any results.

3. FIELDWORK

- 3.1 The watching brief would entail an archaeologist being present during all ground works where there is a potential for archaeological remains to be exposed, damaged or destroyed. This will be carried out during groundworks associated with the installation of the timber bases for the tents if they require groundworks and all associated drainage works. Landscaping works, if undertaken, would also need to be observed by the watching brief. It is not anticipated that the improvements to the existing access track will require archaeological observation.
- 3.2 It is essential coordination between the site contractor's and archaeologist is established at the outset to avoid any potential disturbance to archaeology without an archaeologist being present, or unnecessary visits to the site when works are being carried out that do not require the presence of an archaeologist.
- 3.3 Adequate time must be made available to the visiting archaeologist to ensure that appropriate recording can be undertaken of any archaeological features or deposits exposed during ground works.
- 3.4 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits will conform to best current professional practice and be carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual³ used by DAT Archaeological Services. Significant archaeological features or deposits will be drawn at a suitable scale (no less than 1:20) and photographed in an appropriate format.
- 3.5 All archaeologically significant finds will be retained and, where possible, related to the contexts from which they derived. Finds will be temporarily stored by DAT Archaeological Services in stable conditions. All finds, except those deemed to be Treasure, will remain the property of the landowner.
- 3.6 Under the 1996 Treasure Act, "treasure" can be summarised as:

³ DAT Archaeological Services have adopted the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available on-site for inspection if required.

- Any object other than a coin containing at least 10% gold or silver and at least 300 years old;
 - Any prehistoric assemblage of base metal;
 - Coins found together which contain 10% gold or silver (but no single coins) and groups of at least 10 coins of other metals, provided they are at least 300 years old;
 - Any object found associated with treasure except unworked natural objects; and
 - Any object which would have been Treasure Trove before the 1996 Act but not covered above.
- 3.7 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the development, or that archaeological remains of high significance are exposed, DAT Archaeological Services shall have the power to halt any ground works and shall inform the site agent/project manager and the curatorial officer, and prepare a written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the curatorial officer, DAT Archaeological Services shall, if required, implement on behalf of the Client a contingency scheme for salvage excavation of affected archaeological features. In these instances it would be necessary to employ extra resources to record such features to an appropriate standard.
- 3.8 In the event that human remains are encountered, the District Coroner's Office and the Police will be notified immediately. All human remains will, where possible, be left *in situ*. If preservation *in situ* is not possible all statutory permissions will be obtained in writing before removal begins.

4. POST-FIELDWORK REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

- 4.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with the specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2011), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 4.2 The results of the fieldwork will be assessed in local, regional and wider contexts. The report will include a desk-based research element to ensure that the site is placed within its wider archaeological context. A report that is fully representative of the results of the fieldwork will be prepared and digital and hard copies will be sent to the client for dissemination to all relevant parties.
- 4.3 A summary of the project results, excluding any confidential information, may be prepared for wider dissemination (e.g. Archaeology in Wales and special interest and period-specific journals).
- 4.4 The project archive, including all artefacts and ecofacts (excepting those which may be deemed to be Treasure) will be deposited with an appropriate body following agreement with the landowner.
- 4.5 A copy of the final report will be deposited with the regional HER within six months of the completion of the project.

5. STAFF

- 5.1 This project will be managed by James Meek, Head of DAT Archaeological Services.
- 5.2 Archaeological attendance during the watching brief will be undertaken by staff drawn from the team of archaeologists employed by DAT Archaeological Services.

6. MONITORING

- 6.1 The fieldwork may need to be monitored by the archaeological advisors to the planning authority and the Head of DAT Archaeological Services, who should be provided access to the site at any time during the watching brief works.

7. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 7.1 All DAT Archaeological Services staff are CSCS⁴ registered.
- 7.2 DAT Archaeological Services will carry out a health and safety risk assessment to ensure that all potential risks are minimised.
- 7.3 All relevant health and safety regulations must be followed.
- 7.4 All site inductions, H&S procedures and site rules of the site contractor will be made known to DAT Archaeological Services staff prior to them commencing work on-site.
- 7.5 Safety helmets, safety boots and high visibility vests are to be used by all site personnel as necessary. The site contractors will make all archaeological staff aware of any other PPE⁵ that may be required and provide them. Archaeological staff must not enter any area where there is a considered to be a health and safety risk that has not or is not being appropriately mitigated against.
- 7.6 DAT Archaeological Services staff must ensure that their presence on site is communicated to all relevant site staff, especially machine operators.

⁴ *Construction Skills Certification Scheme (Health and Safety Tested)*

⁵ *Personal Protection Equipment*

APPENDIX 2

Project Archive

Project Number: Fs16-001

ERN: 109365

1 x Watching Brief Form

1 x A3 annotated architect's plan

29 Digital photographs, Film Number 3812-109365 to 3842-109365

1x Photo catalogue

2 x MapInfo GIS tables

Context Register

Context	Description
101	Loamy topsoil in T1
102	Orangey brown clayey silt with frequent shattered mudstone and quartz fragments in T1
103	Water logged and gleyed deposits in T1
201	Loamy topsoil in T2
202	Orangey brown clayey silt with frequent shattered mudstone and quartz fragments in T2
203	Water logged and gleyed deposits in T2
301	Loamy topsoil in T3
302	Orangey brown clayey silt with frequent shattered mudstone and quartz fragments in T3
303	Water logged and gleyed deposits in T3

CRYNGAE MAWR, BLAENANNERCH, CEREDIGION ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2016/34
RHIF Y DIGWYLLIAD / EVENT RECORD NO. 109365

Mai 2016
May 2016

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by:

Menna Bell

Swydd / Position: **Archaeologist**

Llofnod / Signature  Date: 25/05/2016

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
This report has been checked and approved by

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position:

Llofnod / Signature  Date: 21/06/2016

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report



